

# **ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

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## **The 2016 Adult Autism Self- Assessment – Evaluating Progress in Local Authorities along with Partner Agencies**

Date of Commission meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Lead Director: Tracie Rees

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**Useful Information:**

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Yasmin Surti - Lead Commissioner LD & MH
- Author contact details: 454 2387
- Date of Exec meeting: Lead Member briefing 12/10/2016

**1. Summary**

The Statutory guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy was published in March 2015.

- The cross-Government Adult Autism Strategy is an essential step towards realising the Government's long term vision for transforming the lives of, and outcomes for, adults with autism.
- The Strategy is not just about putting in place autism services but about enabling equal access to mainstream services, support and opportunities through reasonable adjustments, training and awareness raising.
- The Self Assessment-Framework is completed to draw comparisons with the previous submissions and see where improvements have been made, where consolidation has taken place, but no progress and where further work is required.
- These outcomes are then translated into the Autism Delivery Action Plan with RAG ratings, which covers the three local authorities as separate entities, and health partners CCG and LPT.
- The Autism Partnership Board has discussed and agreed the outcomes at their last meeting.

**2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny**

Scrutiny are asked to:

- Accept and Validate the Autism Self-Assessment submission
- Support the recommendations for future work to ensure the Council along with partner agencies are able to meet their legal responsibilities and raise standards.

**3. Supporting Information****National Context**

The Autism Act became law in 2009, and a National Strategy, Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives was published 2010. This was followed up with Implementing Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives (DH 2010), which gave a set of mandatory recommendations regarding what action CCG's and Local authorities should take to develop services for people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This was refreshed by a National Strategy published in April 2014 - Think Autism Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives, the strategy for adults with Autism in England: an update.

Statutory guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy was published in March 2015.

The guidance refers to the legal duties imposed upon local authorities and NHS bodies by the Autism Act 2009. It includes the Care Act 2014, and the Children and Families Act 2014. The Transforming Care programme has also raised the profile of autism in respect of appropriate community support to avoid hospital admission and ensure timely hospital discharges.

### Local Context

This places a legal requirement on Clinical Commissioning Group's, under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Service Act (1970). If local services are not in line with statutory guidance, service users could request a judicial review.

The autism guidance not only refers to what "must" be done to comply with legislation but also says what local authorities and NHS bodies "should" do with regard to the way in which they exercise their functions with a view to securing the implementation of the autism strategy.

The last Autism Self-Assessment Framework was completed in 2014. RAG ratings indicate green where we exceed the requirements, amber in areas where there is work in progress and red in areas which are future priorities.

The 2016 Autism Self-Assessment Framework is designed to assess the progress made by the Local Authority and its partners over the last two years. It was submitted on 17th October. The number of RAG rated areas has increased from 20 to 31 so not all are comparative. The local authority is the designated lead for collating and submitting the Autism Self-Assessment Framework. Below are details of what we submitted and what we need to do to improve things.

### Progress

RAG ratings indicate green in twelve areas where we exceed the requirements, amber in fifteen areas where there is work in progress and red in three areas, which are future priorities. See table below.

Sections with RAG rated answers		Red	Amber	Green
Planning	11	0	7	4
Training	2	0	0	2
Diagnosis	9	3	2	4
Care & support	4	0	4	0
Housing	1	0	0	1
Employment	2	0	2	0
Criminal Justice system	2	0	1	1

Areas where we are doing particularly well and some listed as local innovations in the Self –Assessment are:-

The Carers Support group is hosted bi-monthly by the carers centre and has enabled carers to feel their voice is now being heard. As Autism is a hidden disability, they feel very isolated and that the 'authorities' do not understand.

Their views have been collated over time and have provided valuable evidence for responses to the assessment.

Accommodation for supported living has been developed with autism specific design

features, with tenants successfully moved in.

The Monday Club provides prevention and emotional wellbeing support to a growing number of people with autism, within a community setting enabling a range of opportunities for activity and development.

The development and maintenance of the LLR Autism Partnership Board, linking into both City LD and MH Partnership Boards.

### **General progress**

A Multi-disciplinary Autism Diagnostic and Support Pathway has been maintained and refreshed for Children, Transition and Adults with partners across health and social care in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland has been for people with a learning disability. Those with no learning disability currently only have a diagnostic pathway.

This is underpinned by an LLR Delivery Action plan linked to the Statutory guidance published in March 2015 for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy.

A comprehensive training programme is available, some of which is mandatory for ASC staff. Some components are currently being revised by a multiagency LLR group.

Regular self-advocate and carers feedback has provided evidence of progress and highlighted gaps.

Criminal Justice System –awareness raising is making progress across the whole system to recognise Autism, and responding more appropriately across the courts, prison and probation services.

### **Areas for development**

The three red areas relate to the lack of post diagnostic support in Adult Mental Health. There is currently no health service provision. A business plan has been submitted by LPT to the CCG's, as to how this service may be best delivered, but there is currently no additional funding. This links with the Transforming Care programme

Data collection has improved but can still be difficult from a range of sources that do not cross reference, therefore the quality and quantity affects the ability to analyse it. However Information sharing protocols have assisted in progressing this work.

Understanding how Autism affects different groups in society, women, older people and people from different BME groups.

Improve the transition experience for young people in preparing for Adulthood including employment.

Improve carers experience and support for non-learning disability cases and ensure their voice is heard.

#### **4. Financial, legal and other implications**

##### 4.1 Financial implications

None

##### 4.2 Legal implications

Statutory guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy was published in March 2015.

The guidance refers to the legal duties imposed upon local authorities and NHS bodies by the Autism Act 2009. It includes the Care Act 2014, and the Children and Families Act 2014. The Transforming Care programme has also raised the profile of autism in respect of appropriate community support to avoid hospital admission and ensure timely hospital discharges.

This guidance places a legal requirement on Clinical Commissioning Group's, under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Service Act (1970). If local services are not in line with statutory guidance, service users could request a judicial review.

##### 4.3. Climate Change implications

None

##### 4.4 Equality Impact Assessment

None

##### 4.5 Other Implications

None

#### **5. Background information and other papers:**

**None**

#### **6. Summary of appendices:**

6.1 The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission report - 2016 Adult Autism Self-Assessment

6.2 City Autism SAF out-comes - accessible version

6.3 LLR Autism Delivery Action Plan

#### **7. Is this a private report ? No**